

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 3 and 5 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 is currently being amended. Claims 6-12 are being added.

This amendment adds, changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of canceled claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, a new title was required that was clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the title to one that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim 4 was objected to due to a minor informality. By this Amendment, claim 4 was amended to correct the minor informality noted in the objection. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection to claim 4 be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,690,901) in view of Kudo (U.S. Patent No. 6,795,662). As indicated previously, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of canceled claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1, as well as claim 2 depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

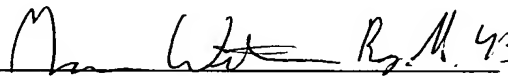
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 12 / 9 / 05

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